The Reading Assessment

The NAEP reading assessment measures students' ability to understand, to interpret, and to think critically about different types of texts. Recognizing that readers vary their approach according to the demands of different types of text, the NAEP framework specifies the assessment of reading in two distinct types of text—literary and informational text. The assessment includes reading materials selected from publications and other resources typically available to students in and out of school.

The framework for the 2009 NAEP Reading Assessment replaces a framework that was first developed for the 1992 assessment. The 2009 framework honors many aspects of the previous framework but also introduces some changes that can lead to better measurement and more precise reporting of assessment results. Changes featured in the 2009 NAEP Reading Framework include

- an assessment design based on current scientific reading research,
- consistency with the No Child Left Behind legislation,
- use of international reading assessments to inform the NAEP Framework,
- a more focused measurement of vocabulary,
- measurements of reading behaviors (cognitive targets) in a more objective manner, and
- distinction of cognitive targets relevant to literary and informational text.

The NAEP reading assessment contains multiple-choice questions, as well as short and extended constructed-response questions. Students spend approximately 50 to 60 percent of their assessment time providing written answers to constructed-response questions. For more information regarding the reading assessment framework, please visit http://www.nagb.org.

NAEP Reading Framework
Distribution of Question Pool Across Contexts

	Grade 8
Literary text	45%
Informational text	55%

Reading Booklet Directions

In each of the next two sections, you will have 25 minutes to read one or two passages and to answer questions about what you have read.

You will be asked to respond to two types of questions. The first type of question requires you to choose the best answer and fill in the oval for that answer in your booklet. Some questions of this type will ask you about the meaning of a word as it is used in the passage.

The other type of question requires you to write your answer on the blank lines in your booklet. Some questions of this type will ask you to write a short answer and some questions will ask you to write a longer answer.

Here is an example of a question that requires you to write a short answer.

Do you think "Summer Adventure" was a good title for the story? Explain why or why not using details from the story.

I think "Summer Adventure" was a good title for the story because the main character, Joe, got to go on a trip to Alaska where he saw Mt. McKinley.

Here is an example of a question that requires you to write a longer, more detailed answer.

Joe has different feelings during his trip in Alaska. Describe two different feelings Joe had and explain what caused him to have those feelings.

Joe was lonely when he first arrived in Alaska because he was missing his friends back home, but then he met Jerry and Pat and felt better.

When Jerry's parents took them all to Portage Lake, Joe felt excited because they went on a boat ride across a lake filled with icebergs to see the blue glacier.

Think carefully about each question. When you are writing your response, make your answer as complete as possible. Be sure your handwriting is clear. Use as many lines as you need.

You may go back to the passage when answering the questions.

If you finish before time is called, read over your work to be sure you have provided your best answer.

Sample Reading Questions
Grade 8

Kid Fights Cheater Meters And Wins!

The true story of a girl with a stopwatch and a bag of nickels who uncovered a local parking scandal and helped change the laws of her state . . .

Ellie Lammer wasn't trying to spark a revolt, she just wanted a haircut. That was in the fall of 1997. Ellie was 11 years old at the time, and she was getting her tresses trimmed in her hometown of Berkeley, California. When Ellie and her mom returned to their car, they found a parking ticket stuck to the windshield. It didn't seem possible: Less than an hour earlier, Ellie had pumped an hour's worth of coins into the meter. But now the needle was at zero, and Ellie's mom owed $20.

Feeling cheated, Ellie dropped another nickel in the meter and twisted the knob. The needle clicked over to the four-minute mark. Ellie stared at her watch while her mom watched the meter. Less than three minutes later, all of the time had expired. There it was: proof that they'd been cheated. The city tore up the ticket when Ellie's mom complained about the meter.

But the experience left Ellie wondering how many other meters were inaccurate. Six months later, she decided to find out. She'd been looking around for a good science-fair project—and that meter in Berkeley still bothered her. So armed with a bag of nickels and a stopwatch, she hit the streets.

Ellie didn't have the time or money to test every meter, so she focused on a sample of 50 meters located in different parts of the city. To avoid inconveniencing motorists, she did her research after 6 P.M. and on Sundays, when the meters were not in use. She put in eight minutes' worth of nickels in each meter, then measured how much time it really gave.

The results were not pretty. Ellie's findings suggested that more than nine out of every ten meters in the city were inaccurate—and that every fourth parking

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meter was running out of time too quickly. With 3,600 parking meters in the city, that meant a lot of undeserved tickets. As Ellie wrote in her science-project report, "I learned which meters cheat you and which meters cheat the City of Berkeley. But I learned that almost all meters cheat someone, so beware."

When the science fair rolled around, Ellie presented her findings with computer-generated charts and graphs. Her classmates weren't very interested in her project. "It's not like they have to drive a car or put money in a parking meter," she explains. But her project was a huge hit with parents. More than 50 of them lined up that night to share their own parking-meter horror stories with Ellie.

After that, word about Ellie's meter project spread fast. Within a few weeks, Ellie got a call from local politician Diane Woolley. At the time, Berkeley was considering replacing its meters with more accurate digital ones. Ellie shared her findings at city hall, and the politicians were impressed. "We don't get reports this thorough when we pay consultants hundreds of thousands of dollars," one remarked. Based on Ellie's study, they decided to purchase 2,000 new meters.

The California state legislature also decided to crack down on cheater meters. After Ellie presented her findings, they enacted "Lammer's Law," which requires California's 26 counties to test the accuracy of parking meters. Any meter found to be inaccurate must be fixed or dismantled.

California Governor Pete Wilson signed the law on November 1, 1998. At the time, he commented, "Ellie's ingenuity and dedication has earned her the gratitude of those Californians who've dug through their purses and pockets in search of exact change to feed the meters, only to return to find their cars bearing the dreaded green envelope of a parking ticket."

Ellie became a celebrity. She was in newspapers all over the country and featured on local television news during the summer and fall of 1998. CNN did a story about her. She was even a guest on the Late Show with David Letterman. "It was kind of a weird moment of being a celebrity," she says.

Ellie, who's now an eighth-grader at Martin Luther King Middle School, is proud of the work she's done. But she doesn't see meter monitoring as her life's work: "Right now I don't mind being known as the parking-meter girl, but I'm sure that later in life I'll want something different."

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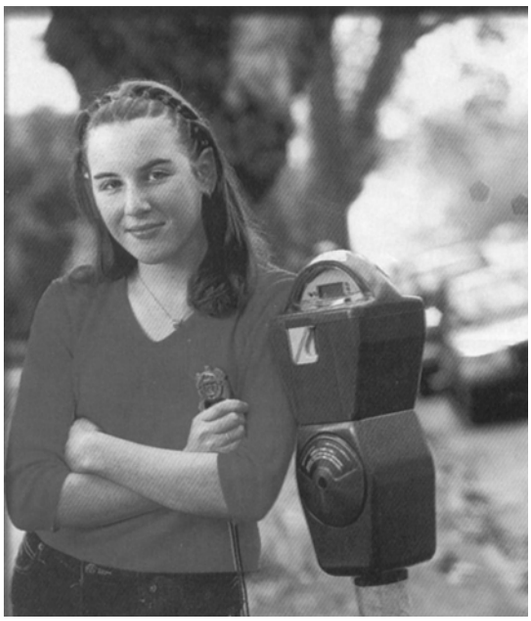

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1. Explain the meaning of the title "Kid Fights Cheater Meters and Wins!" Use information from the article to support your answer.

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2. Why did Ellie's meter project attract so much attention? Explain why using information from the article.

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3. According to the article, why did Ellie do much of her research after 6 P.M.?

Ⓐ She did not want people to learn about her project.

● She did not want to inconvenience motorists.

Ⓒ She had to focus on a sample of 50 meters.

Ⓓ She saved money because the meters cost less after 6 P.M.

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4. According to the article, what did Ellie learn from doing her meter project?

● Every fourth meter ran too quickly.

Ⓑ Nine out of ten digital meters were accurate.

Ⓒ 3,600 parking meters were inaccurate.

Ⓓ Almost none of the 50 meters ran too slowly.

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5. Choose two things Ellie Lammer did and explain what those things tell about her. Use examples from the article to support your answer.

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6. What happened when Ellie presented her report at the science fair?

Ⓐ She won first prize for her computer-generated graphics.

Ⓑ Other students were interested in her findings.

● Parents wanted to tell her their own parking meter stories.

Ⓓ She decided to pursue meter monitoring as a career.